

JOHN NICHOLS

John Nichols received a BS in mathematics from Francis Marion College in 1978 and a JD from the USC School of Law in 1985. He first worked with Rogers & Koon focusing primarily on property litigation. In 1986, the SC Court of Appeals hired John as a staff attorney and he became chief staff counsel in 1993. John also served at times as a law clerk for Chief Judge Alex M. Sanders, Jr., Judge Randall T. Bell, and Acting Judge C. Bruce Littlejohn. From 1996 until 2000, John worked with Suggs & Kelly, primarily on pharmaceutical mass tort litigation around the country. In 2000, John and Marti Bluestein formed Bluestein & Nichols which is now Bluestein Thompson & Sullivan. John's primary focus was on appellate practice, general tort litigation and representing attorneys before the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. In 2017, the Supreme Court of SC appointed John to serve as Disciplinary Counsel and he took over the office in January 2018.

John is admitted to practice in South Carolina's state and federal courts as well as the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, the Eleventh and the Federal Circuits, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

From 2003 to 2018, John served on the SC Board of Law Examiners by Supreme Court appointment. In 2012 Governor Nikki Haley appointed John to the SC Commission on Indigent Defense and was reappointed by Governor Henry McMaster. From 2013 to 2017 John served as special counsel to the SC House Ethics Committee and the SC Senate Ethics Committee.

John has spoken at seminars for a number of groups, including the SC Bar, the SC Judicial Branch, SCAJ/SCTLA, the SCIWA, the SCDTAA, the SC Public Defenders Association, and the SC Prosecution Commission. He served on the Education Committee for the ABA's Council of Appellate Staff Attorneys and assisted the SC Judicial Branch in developing orientation seminars for new members of the SC Appellate Courts, Circuit Court and Family Court as well as for attorneys employed by the Judicial Branch.

John has also authored, co-authored or edited several books and other publications for Thomson Reuters (West) or the South Carolina Bar. From 1995 through 2000, John served as editor of "What's New," the case summaries prepared by law professors for the South Carolina Lawyer magazine (SC Bar). He also served on the South Carolina Lawyer magazine's Editorial Board, serving as Editor-in-Chief from 2004 through 2006. John also served as editor of "The Bulletin," the magazine for the SCAJ.

John serves on USC's "B-Ball - Coaches versus Cancer" committee and is an officer with the Columbia USC Tip-Off Club. He enjoys painting, playing guitar, traveling and hiking with his wife, Michelle, and spending time with their grandson, Max.